

Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity Habitat Project List Committee Meeting Notes

July 20, 2010

Island Lake Community Center, 1087 NW Island Lake Road, Silverdale/Poulsbo, WA

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Attendees:

- *Vern Rutter- HPLC Chair/Citizen
- *Tom Springer- Citizen
- *Rebecca Mars- Citizen
- *Richard Wojt- Citizen
- Richard Brocksmith- Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC)
- Heidi Huber- Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC)
- *Rebecca Benjamin- North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC)
- *Rich Geiger- Mason Conservation District (MCD)
- *Neil Werner- Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG)
- John Blankenship- Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG)
- *Jamie Glasgow- Wild Fish Conservancy (WFC)
- (*HPLC Member)

Purpose: To review the final proposed projects and technically-ranked list, evaluate social and economic merits of the proposals, and determine a final ranked project list to be forwarded to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Available Funding: \$1,195,165 to ~\$1,327,952 (if SRFB increases state award to \$20.1M on 8/11/2010)

Introductions, Reviewed Agenda and Process for Habitat Project List Committee (HPLC)

-Refer to 2010 Process Guide for Meeting Structure, Membership and Ground Rules

Reviewed results from Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and looked over the HPLC Criteria in the Process Guide

-Richard provided a brief overview of each project, with the group addressing several questions from the HPLC captured below.

General Discussion and Questions:

What is a delta cone (in reference to Big Quilcene and Snow Creek projects)?

Delta cones can be created when manmade structures such as levees or bridges in the lower river and estuary prevent natural distribution and fanning out of sediment, instead purging it all at the estuary (which is usually in higher quantities due to forestry/road building in the headwaters, floodplain disconnection, and channel incision from wood removal). The sediment collects at the mouth of the estuary and builds up creating a delta cone that both progrades seaward and aggrades upward. The delta cone can become high enough to support terrestrial plants (often invasive species) and block the natural flow of water and nutrients in the estuary, there by displacing aquatic habitats and ensuring disruptive river avulsions or course changes.

What is the level of local support for ***Dosewallips Riparian Corridor Acquisition?***

This proposal is one component of a larger management effort that went through a local public process as a part of the Dosewallips State Park Classification and Management Plan in mid 2000s. Eventually the CAMP for this park was adopted by the State Parks Commission. It was also fairly well covered in at least two newspaper articles. The larger project concept was presented at the Hood Canal Coordinating Council Board meeting and it was generally felt to be a win/win proposal, though there was some sentiment that it would be less than ideal to take the larger upland chunks outside of this SRFB proposal out of timber production.

What is the level of local support for ***Dosewallips ELJ's?***

This project will go through an additional outreach process both at the site scale and at the larger scale for all of the Forest Service reaches through a public NEPA scoping process. In addition, the need for this type of work was discussed in community forums held by HCCC several years ago and also the flood hazard mitigation benefits were documented in the County's recently adopted Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Why \$100,000 per log jam for the Dosewallips? This amount seems high.

Those estimates include the design work, permitting, acquiring the logs, and delivering the materials. We want a really high certainty that jams are secure and won't move into unwanted areas downriver or increase instead of decrease additional road washouts, thus they are being designed with fairly high risk factors to be stable.

Where do the logs come from?

WFC often gets wood through the Forest Service, State Parks, local governments, and developers. We need trees with rootwads which makes finding wood a bit more complicated. Most of these trees are being donated by State Parks, though we will be looking for additional trees for this effort, which may come from surrounding private forestlands.

Are there log jam specialists?

Yes there are individuals who focus on this type of work and WFC has been talking with one of the best known in this field.

Who are the local sponsors for the ***Skokomish General Investigation?***

Skokomish Tribe and Mason County.

How has it been working with the Army Corps of Engineers?

Currently things are moving forward and running smoothly. In the past the Howard Hanson dam required Army Corps resources, which took away from this effort and lack of funding has slowed the original, overly aggressive schedule. But now key Corps staff are back focused on the General Investigation and funding has equaled staff capacity to move forward key components.

Will the Army Corps only present a very narrow list of options for the Skokomish River GI?

No, they will examine all possible options. Citizens will go to the Corps and tell them what they think. Local citizen suggestions and desired outcomes will then be discussed and alternatives will be generated. Starting this September a rigorous outreach program will be started. In addition, key partners will develop a larger set of proposed projects to bring to the table for further review. Richard relayed that the TAG conditioned this project's funding on the

requirement that these projects must clearly address the strategic objectives that have been developed in the Draft Skokomish Chinook Recovery Plan (in process) for the lower river or the proposed final funding requested from the SRFB might be denied.

Sponsor comment on ***Knotweed Control and Riparian Enhancement***:

We need a program in place that allows funding for this type of project to continue uninterrupted over multiple years given the nature of the threat and its treatment.

Do the knotweed projects involve education and outreach?

Yes! We want landowners involved and educated. Education is a huge priority for us. All of our contractors must go through a noxious weed class before working on our projects. We have also worked very hard to become more and more efficient. We are now doing 4 watersheds for the cost of what used to be the cost for one watershed. We've also trained women from the prison so they have these skill sets when they are released.

Lower Tahuya LWD Placement: Did the Tahuya River Reach Assessment that developed rationale and designs for this proposal take place after the 2007 storms? Yes.

General comments: Several projects have agreed to lower their SRFB requests by at least \$10,000 to help fund projects further down the list. So far the sponsor for the Dosewallips Riparian Corridor Acquisition project has confirmed they will do this, NOSC has tried, and others are being contacted.

Proposed Changes to the Project Rankings and Finalize Project List:

Should ***Knotweed Control and Riparian Enhancement Year 3*** move up to ensure funding?

No. The group discussed the importance of the Skokomish General Investigation getting funding this year because of timing issues. Don't want to lose the increased momentum and cooperation.

Motion to accept the technically ranked list, projects 1-7. **Consensus**

Motion to accept the entire technically ranked list, projects 1-13. **Consensus**

Strategy, next steps:

Overview of TAG discussion (see TAG Notes for more information):

What can we do to improve this process?

-There is a need to address and incorporate steelhead in our strategy as well as redefine the importance of nearshore habitats.

-Do we need to make the Chimacum, Tahuya, and Big Beef watersheds a higher priority?

-Do we need a "larger table", are there enough people in the room?

Sponsor comment: I'd like to see more scientists on the TAG panel. Seems we have seen a decrease over time

-Do we need to meet more often?

Would be nice to include more people in the HPLC from different areas, and to meet more often to get progress updates.

-Goal setting discussion?

-Independent scoring person needed?

Richard: HCCC normalizes scores to address observer bias. Will look into recommendations from North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity that suggests at least 12 individuals are needed to weed out bias in their process.

HCCC is working on a scope of work for updating the Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan in the next year, and for then incorporating those improvements and others into the 2011 HCCC Process Guide.

-Why isn't there broader participation?

The group would like to see more people (citizens and TAG members) at project site visits.

Richard: all of our meetings are open to TAG and HPLC members. In order to boost attendance, HCCC staff will make additional phone calls to the committee members, personally encourage them to attend site visits, and arrange dates ahead of time based on their best availability.

-Should the TAG rankings be adjusted based on TAG discussion, or should the list be based solely on the numbers?

Some post scoring discussion is needed to help prioritize projects based on sequencing/timing issues, new information obtained, etc.

Several participants would like to see potential conflict of interest issues dealt with. HCCC does have a conflict of interest policy, but specific recommendations made by the group will be pursued by HCCC staff.

End of Meeting – approx 4:00pm